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The Parthenon, June 23, 2017

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Campus abuzz as new students arrive for orientation

By **FRANKLIN NORTON**
LIFE! EDITOR

Marshall University is buzzing with energy, even during the summer time. For several weeks spread throughout the summer, the campus is filled with incoming students hoping to learn more about the university and its services.

Cedrick Gathings, the university's Vice President of Student Affairs, stood outside of the student center Thursday morning, welcoming incoming freshman students.

"It's an opportunity for students to interact with other students and talk about their experience," Gathings said. "One of the things we want to do is make sure the students feel comfortable when they come to campus and feel as if when they get here they already know as much as they can know about where the buildings are located and who they can talk to when they need assistance."

At orientation, students can expect to learn about graduation requirements, how to navigate student resources and support services and meet with an academic adviser to register for the first semester of classes.

"Orientation is very important because during it we take the kids to see advising and they get their IDs," said Sadie Ulmen, a student orientation leader. "At advising they get their schedules and they kind of get to know Marshall before they actually come."

Orientation leaders play a large role in the orientation process, as they are each assigned groups of students to guide throughout the day.

"Personally, orientation is super fun for all of us because we get to really connect with the kids and just kind of put our foot in the door of having their first Marshall experience be a positive one," said Ulmen.

While orientation is for the incoming



FRANKLIN NORTON | THE PARTHENON

Incoming freshmen check in at orientation Thursday morning in the Memorial Student Center.

students, the student affairs office recognizes that it is also an opportunity to reach out to the parents of freshmen.

"This is our opportunity to show our best face to new members of the Marshall family," said Matt James, assistant dean of student affairs. "A really critical piece for student affairs is making sure we're educating parents on that transition piece. Because from high school to college, that transition can be pretty rough for some students. There's also a lot of learning that goes on outside of the classroom. Our role as student affairs is to make sure parents are comfortable with, not letting go, but

forming a partnership with us and their understanding all of the resources and services available to students."

Gathings expressed that orientation shows students and their families the purpose of student affairs on campus.

"What we do every day, we put the students first," Gathings said. "We do things in a spirit of excellency. We make that student and that family feel like, 'you are the reason that we're here.'"

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OPINION, 2

> Editorial: Budget cuts on education

> Column: Huntington development

NEWS, 3

> World Changers come to Huntington

> Marshall journalism camp

SPORTS, 4

> Men's, women's soccer schedule

LIFE, 6

> Jarvis to speak on W.Va. LGBTQ+ experience

Journey to rock the Big Sandy

STAFF REPORT

Classic rock band Journey is set to rock the Big Sandy Supercenter Arena in downtown Huntington Tuesday at 8 p.m., performing well-known hits like "Don't Stop Believin'," "Faithfully" and "Any Way You Want It."

Journey is one of the most popular rock bands of all time, with 19 Top 40 singles and more than 80 million records sold worldwide.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominated band has already set Big Sandy sales records, joining the ranks of KISS, Def Leppard and Luke Bryan, all of whom have performed at the arena in recent months.

Asia, known for hits like "Heat of the Moment," will open for the band.

Memorial, parks honor victims of 2016 West Virginia floods

By **JOHN RABY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rain falling like it would never end has changed the meaning of summer in this tiny corner of Appalachia.

When the downpour finally stopped in White Sulphur Springs on June 23, 2016, five lives had been lost along one road alone — Mill Hill Drive. And 23 people were dead statewide in West Virginia's worst flooding since 1985.

As the floodwaters receded, a muddy landscape of ruined homes and businesses, wiped-out roads and bridges and devastated lives emerged in hard-hit Greenbrier County. Then there followed an army of volunteers, donors and government workers, rallying to help.

On the anniversary of those rains, a memorial wall, museum and a series of parks linked by sidewalks around Mill Hill Drive will be dedicated Friday on behalf of victims and the community. It's a place where nearly a dozen businesses have re-opened, and few here are untouched by tragedy.

"It's a time of celebration and rebirth," said City Council member Audrey Van Buren, who lost her mother-in-law and sister-in-law in the disaster. "It's about everyone in our town, and how the volunteers have flocked into town to help us to rebuild.



STEVE HELBER | AP PHOTO

In this June 24, 2016 file photo, Jimmy Scott gets a hug from Anna May Watson, left, as they clean up from severe flooding in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

It hasn't been hundreds. It's been thousands of people since day one who have poured into the city. We've been so blessed."

Teenager Cameron Zobrist pitched a memorial wall as an Eagle Scout project. It was built with donated material and labor. Now on Mill Hill Drive, a sidewalk leads to a rose garden on the property of Debra Nicely, who lost her husband, daughter and grandson. The

bodies of Hershel Nicely, 68; Nataysha Hughes, 33; and Dakota Stone, 16, were found nearby.

Further along Mill Hill Drive, a playground honoring 14-year-old victim Mykala Phillips sits beside a garden memorializing Belinda Scott, 54. Scott's home exploded after a gas leak and she clung to a tree for hours above the floodwaters, dying three days later. The tree is now surrounded by flowers

and ornaments depicting her love for butterflies and bees.

"Her name was Belinda," Van Buren said. "But everybody called her Bee."

James and Becky Carter Phillips moved their two sons into a new home not far from the one where Mykala was last seen. Their daughter's body was found weeks later.

With memories still too vivid, James Phillips isn't interested in revisiting his old neighborhood. His wife likes the idea of the museum and memorial, especially since she wouldn't have to repeat the story of the flood to curious guests at the Greenbrier, where she works. The luxury resort also saw damage to its golf course, since repaired.

"I get asked so many questions all the time," she said. "I could direct them right there and they can just look."

Not long after the floods, ground was broken on Hope Village, a 42-home community for residents whose homes were destroyed.

Belinda Scott's husband, Ronnie Scott, plans to move in with his dog, Dancer, adopted after the disaster. Debra Nicely was there for the groundbreaking. One of the streets is named Nicely Way.

see FLOODS | pg. 5

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World Changers work to change Huntington for the better



ADAM STEPHENS NEWS EDITOR
Mitchell Karley of World Changers works on a wheelchair ramp at the Barnes residence in Huntington.

By ADAM STEPHENS
NEWS EDITOR

The sounds of construction and home repair could be heard throughout Huntington last week while members of the Christian organization World Changers volunteered at 14 different worksites throughout the city.

The crews worked on several different projects at homes throughout Huntington, such as building wheelchair ramps, painting, building decks, replacing roofing and other home improvement needs.

The volunteers, who took up lodging in Huntington High School at night, consisted of 139 students and adults from 10 different churches from Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Tennessee.

One of the Huntington homes that World Changers worked on during the week belonged to Isabell Barnes, whose mother is in a wheelchair. Barnes said that she has been trying to have a wheelchair ramp built at her house for years and that World Changers is an answered prayer.

"It's a blessing," Barnes said. "I tell everyone that when you allow God to be first in your life, he will answer your prayers."

Not only do homeowners benefit from volunteer groups such as World Changers, but the community as a whole is positively impacted as well.

"It just lets other people know that there are programs out there that they can get onto. They just have to talk to the city of Huntington," Barnes said.

World Changers communications specialist Madison Cleveland, who is from a church in Missouri, said that traveling to other areas not only gives volunteers a chance to learn about others, but also allows them to witness to the members of the community.

"It's really important to be able to make an impact on the community, to meet the physical needs, but also to come in and share the gospel and to meet spiritual needs as well," Cleveland said. "By going into different communities that we're not originally from our eyes are opened to different lifestyles and to different needs."

Greg Vititoe, who is from Louisville Kentucky, was the crew chief for the Barnes project and said that the students show their passion by spending their own money to travel and to be a part of the work crews.

"The kids come and spend their own money to get here because they really want to be here and to do this," Vititoe said. "It's because they're not here for themselves. They're here for the community, for the people of the community and for Jesus Christ. They are here to serve Him and we serve others because He died for us, and we're compelled by the love of Christ to love others."

Huntington was just one of the many cities that World Changers is working in this summer. Over 12,000 volunteers with the group are working in 51 cities throughout the U.S. this year.

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High school students participate in Marshall journalism camp

Local high school students participated in a four-day journalism camp led by faculty and students of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. The students were introduced to several pillars of journalism throughout multiple workshops, covering topics such as interviewing, photography, news writing, media law and reporting in the digital age. Pictured top to bottom, from left, Garrett Jordan from Cabell Midland, Destiny Wager from Calhoun County High, Christopher Gooding from Huntington High, Sarah Morris from Calhoun County High and Jeston Richardson from Cabell Midland.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

W. Va Senators react to Senate GOP healthcare bill

By MICHAEL VIRTANEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Virginia Republican U.S. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito said Thursday she's evaluating the Senate Republican leadership's proposed health care overhaul and its effect on West Virginians.

The draft legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act has been posted it on her website for constituents to read.

Meanwhile, West Virginia's Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said he can't support the bill, that from his initial review, it makes severe Medicaid cuts, raises costs for seniors, denies coverage access to people who desperately need drug treatment and gives a tax break to the wealthy.

Capito has been the subject of a media campaign in West Virginia urging residents to call her office advocating that she support continuing medical coverage for thousands of people who gained it under the current law.

She said on Thursday she'll examine the Senate proposal "using several factors to evaluate whether it provides access to affordable health care for West Virginians."

Those factors include people covered by the Medicaid expansion that West Virginia implemented under so-called "Obamacare" that the new legislation would replace, as well as people struggling with drug addiction, Capito said.

Last year about 100,000 low-income West Virginia residents with Medicaid coverage had drug abuse diagnoses, according to state health officials. About 50,000 were covered under the expansion at a cost of \$113 million.

That coverage would likely disappear within a few years, under the Senate plan.

The Senate bill would phase out extra money Obama's law provides to 31 states that agreed to expand coverage under the federal-state Medicaid program. The additional funds would continue through 2020, then gradually fall and disappear entirely in 2024.

The Department of Health and Human Resources has said it would not be able to pay for the coverage expansion without the higher federal matching funds. Under the existing law, the federal government pays 90 percent of the expansion cost through 2020.

President Trump and many members of the Republican-controlled Congress have promised to repeal former Democratic President Barack Obama's signature health care program. They criticized provisions that raised taxes on businesses and some families, limited options and rising premiums in the government-supported marketplaces for private insurance, and penalties for people not buying coverage.

The House has passed a different replacement bill. The Congressional Budget Office concluded it would cost 23 million Americans health coverage by 2026. The office is expected to issue its report on the Senate draft next week.

Manchin criticized that measure, saying up to 2.8 million Americans with drug addictions would lose some or all of their insurance. "Based on my initial review, the health care bill released by Republican Leadership today appears to be as bad of a deal for West Virginia as the House bill. ... It also gives a tax break to 11,000 of the wealthiest West Virginians without doing anything for the other 920,000 taxpayers."

The state had the nation's highest drug overdose death rate, with 41.5 deaths per 100,000 people in 2015. State health officials reported recently that overdose deaths rose nearly 18 percent last year, killing 864 people.

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SPORTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017 | THE PARTHENON | MARSHALLPARTHENON.COM

Herd soccer combines for 16 home matches in 2017

STAFF REPORT
THE PARTHENON

Marshall men's and women's soccer have both announced their full slate of games for the upcoming 2017 season, which features 16 matches between the two programs at Hoops Family Field at Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex.

The men's team begins play at home on Aug. 12 with an exhibition game against NAIA National Runner-Up Rio Grande and then returns for the regular season home opener on Aug. 25 versus UNC Asheville.

The women will wait until Aug. 27 for their home opener against Longwood University after two exhibition matches on the road against Eastern Kentucky (Aug. 9) and James Madison (Aug. 13) and their first two regular season matches at Tennessee-Martin (Aug. 18) and Murray State (Aug. 20).

After traveling to Charlotte to start Conference USA play on Sept. 9, the men get their first conference game of the year against the South Carolina Gamecocks, who finished second in the league in the regular season in 2016.

The Thundering Herd women's team also begins conference

play on the road in Charlotte (Aug. 15), the 2016 C-USA Tournament Champions, but returns home after a non-conference game at High Point (Aug. 17) for three straight C-USA home games against North Texas (Aug. 21), Southern Miss (Aug. 24) and Louisiana Tech (Aug. 29).

The men's and women's teams combined for a 9-6-1 record at home in 2016 and are 31-26-15 overall since Hoops Family Field at Veterans Memorial Soccer Complex opened in 2013.

Visit herdzone.com for a full season schedule for both men's and women's soccer teams.

Men's Soccer Home Schedule



Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
Rio Grande Red Storm (exhibition)



Aug. 25, 7 p.m.
UNC Asheville Bulldogs



Aug. 27, 4 p.m.
Evansville Purple Aces



Sept. 13, 5 p.m.
Eastern Illinois Panthers



Sept. 16, 1 p.m.
South Carolina Gamecocks



Sept. 30, 7 p.m.
New Mexico Lobos



Oct. 14, 11 a.m.
Kentucky Wildcats



Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
UAB Blazers

Women's Soccer Home Schedule

Aug. 27, 1 p.m.
Longwood Lancers



Sept. 3, 1 p.m.
Gardner-Webb Bulldogs



Sept. 8, 7 p.m.
Ohio Bobcats



Sept. 21, 7 p.m.
North Texas Mean Green



Sept. 24, 1 p.m.
Southern Miss Golden Eagles



Sept. 29, 7 p.m.
La Tech Lady Techsters



Oct. 13, 7 p.m.
FIU Panthers



Oct. 15, 1 p.m.
Florida Atlantic Owls





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Local residents go ‘Over the Edge’ for charity



JARED CASTO | THE PARTHENON

CEO of Goodwill Industries KYOWVA Alissa Sparks (left) and Gina Browning, creative ambassador of Goodwill buzz, begin their descent down the 15-story West Virginia Building Saturday.

By JARED CASTO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Gina Browning learned only an hour in advance that she would be rappelling down the historic West Virginia Building last week during Over the Edge, a fund-raising event for United Way of the River Cities presented by St. Mary’s Hospital.

Browning, a creative ambassador of Goodwill buzz, said she was afraid of heights prior to her 15-story descent, but had decided Friday she’d like to take the plunge. However, Browning thought it unlikely to become reality under such short notice.

Luckily for her, she was mistaken. Fellow rappeller and CEO of Goodwill Industries KYOWVA Alissa Sparks called Browning at around 8:30 a.m. the morning of the event to break the news that a new spot had just opened and was hers if she wanted it.

“Somebody had sponsored anybody who wanted to go this morning,” Sparks said. “So they said, ‘You wanna call Gina?’”

An hour later, both Browning and Sparks were descending from the 200-foot building, the city’s tallest, overlooking downtown Huntington.

“She made me put my money where my mouth was,” Browning said and laughed.

Browning and Sparks had a variety of adjectives to describe their descent, including “frightening” and “exhilarating,” but both agreed they’d be willing to take part in Over the Edge again in the future.

Sparks said the reason they wanted

to participate is because Goodwill is one of the largest recipients of United Way funds and the event was an opportunity to partner with another local organization.

Rappellers like Bill Smith, a 1973 Marshall alum and superintendent of schools for Cabell County, had different reasons for wanting to give back to the local organization. Smith said he took part in Over the Edge because of the contributions United Way of the River Cities has made to the local school systems.

“They’re just so great — special — to the school system,” Smith said. “The money they invest in activities for kids have meaning to us.”

Smith said he hadn’t had any rappelling experience since he was a Boy Scout around 50 years ago. While Smith said today’s equipment is a bit more sophisticated than it was then, he said organizers made the experience comfortable and he would consider rappelling down the 15-story building again in the future.

Over the Edge is an organization that has had over 500 events and has helped non-profits across the continent raise more than \$50 million. After discovering Over the Edge, director of development for United Way of the River Cities said his organization thought it would be a unique opportunity for the city of Huntington.

To rappel down the building, participants were required to raise \$1,000, a goal Ward said the prospective rap-pelers achieved in a number of ways;

some simply wrote checks, while others asked friends, family and coworkers to contribute toward the cause. A few participants had more orthodox approaches to the fundraising.

“I think some people had garage sales and some people had bake sales,” Ward said. “Old school fundraising.”

Ward said the event netted “a little over \$30,000” which he said will go “right back into the tri-state community.” This includes United Way of the River Cities’ fundraising endeavors to benefit local education, health and safety net programs. The non-profit contributes to these programs by fundraising year-round and distributing grants to those who apply for assistance.

United Way of the River Cities has also offered a helping hand with the region’s ongoing efforts to combat substance abuse. The non-profit has funded Huntington’s Recovery Point center in recent years, providing \$19,000 in 2015, and has initiated the Cabell County Substance Abuse Prevention Partnership. The program aims to educate the community on the harms of drug abuse and promote efforts to reduce substance abuse in the area.

United Way of the River Cities is already eyeing another event next year, Ward said, and he recommends anyone interested in going “Over the Edge” begin their fundraising efforts now.

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FLOODS cont. from 1

In February, Nicely shared on Facebook an unknown author’s post about coping with grief by pretending life is fine. Last month, another post hinted at a return to normalcy after she assembled a backyard grill by herself, writing “GO ME!!!”

Elsewhere in Greenbrier County, the town of Rainelle, population 1,500, lost five residents and dozens of homes. And in nearby Kanawha County, where six people died,

movement has been slow to patch destruction in two communities including Elkview, where a washed-out bridge made a mall inaccessible. Now the bridge is being replaced and two anchor stores are returning to the mall.

So many low-income homes in Rainelle were abandoned that some worried the community could lose its tax base. But now a Tennessee-based Christian ministry is building at least 50 homes and fixing others.

“The difference the volunteers are making in the lives of the homeowners is a powerful thing,” said Krista Williams of Rainelle, an AmeriCorps VISTA program volunteer, “and it’s creating a movement in this community like we’ve never seen.”

The state’s conservation agency is removing sediment from Rainelle’s flood-control channels. The nearby city of Lewisburg sent a street sweeper to clean Rainelle’s streets, once piled high

with debris.

Spunky 70-year-old Mayor Andy Pendleton has dubbed Rainelle “Noah’s Ark” because of the rebuilding, but doesn’t want it to stop just yet.

“There’s so much more to do,” said Pendleton, who walked tearfully through the town’s devastated streets a year ago. “People need jobs. We need to make it ‘Why would people come to Rainelle to visit?’ I want a purpose for Rainelle.”

HUNTINGTON cont. from 2

Asheville do to become a popular destination?

According to an article written by James Fallows of the Atlantic, Asheville’s popularity didn’t just happen. Instead, it was a thirty-year process of finding what the city was good at, and revitalizing its downtown. The art and music community grew, along with breweries and businesses popping up around the area. Another factor that Asheville may be best known for is its outdoor experiences and the amazing hiking it offers.

Compare that to Huntington, which may not on the surface show these qualities, but

offers many of the same attractions Asheville does. It has an amazing art community that Marshall is helping grow with the new Visual Arts Center right in the heart of downtown.

As for music, the Huntington music scene offers several local acts who have begun to receive national attention, along with events being held every week at different venues throughout the city. This fall will also bring the 8th Huntington Music and Arts Festival, which in the past has focused on local business and music.

And with the revitalization of the Huntington downtown area, it seems like all the pieces are falling into place for Huntington to become a destination for young people

to call home. When you look at these other cities, property value has shot up as well. Asheville’s average home price is around \$200,000, nearly \$20,000 more than the national average.

Huntington has a sort of uniqueness to it that cities like Portland, OR and Austin, TX have been able capitalize on by embracing the slogan “Keep (city name) Weird.” Similarly, such a slogan invokes the same kind of pride in Huntington. So in the next year, look for Huntington to try and grow and expand on its strengths. And if you’re new to the area, embrace them and try and indulge in all of it.

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THE PARTHENON

The Parthenon, Marshall University’s student newspaper, is published by students Monday through Friday during the regular semester and Friday during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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Jarvis prepares to speak about LGBTQ+ experience in West Virginia

By **FRANKLIN NORTON**
LIFE! EDITOR

Marshall Student Body President Matt Jarvis will take the stage at city hall on Monday to give a talk that hits close to home for him. “Mountainqueer: Identifying as LGBTQ+ in West Virginia and Appalachia”, set to begin at 7 p.m., will address the experience of LGBTQ+ people in Appalachia, specifically in West Virginia.

“West Virginia does have a declining population,” Jarvis said. “But with that ,the LGBTQ+ population has been growing. In 2017 alone it’s estimated that LGBTQ+ marriages are going to revenue about 9 million dollars”

In fact, the University of California’s Williams Institute estimates that there will be 1,400 West Virginia same-sex marriages in 2017 alone.

With population rates growing, polls have found 78 percent of West Virginia residents think LGBT people experience discrimination in the state according to the Williams Institute.

While Jarvis agrees the state has a long way to go, he still believes the community structure of West Virginia facilitates acceptance of individuals.

“They’ll still treat you with love and kindness and respect,” Jarvis said, “and they’ll still help you out. If you need a cup of sugar in your neighborhood, they’re still going to do it. Little things like that we can attribute to our close-knit neighborhoods, to the way our communities are structured, the way our families are here—very tight-knit.”

For Jarvis, even though the state is not as progressive as he would like it to be, he expressed that for the most part, as an individual, he is accepted in his community. However, certain policy decisions cannot go unnoticed, like the recent decision of the West Virginia



COURTESY PHOTO

Marshall University Student Body President, Matt Jarvis, poses for a photo out in front of the he Memorial Student Center Fountain. Jarvis will give a presentation at Huntington City Hall on Monday at 7 p.m.

Supreme Court that anti-gay assaults are not covered under hate crime laws.

“It’s a blow. It hurts,” said Jarvis.

When Jarvis was asked to give the talk at city hall, he said he didn’t feel that he was qualified to speak on such a platform. However, as the first openly gay student body president at

Marshall, he said this platform has become responsibility.

“I never ran as the gay president. I never wanted to be that,” Jarvis explained. “Whenever I joined Greek life, I didn’t want to be known as the gay fraternity guy. I just wanted to be known as Matt. So being here and having a

community that can allow me to do that: that was my platform.”

As student body president, Jarvis expressed the importance of a university being there for its LGBT students, referencing the New York Times story, ‘My Family Didn’t Accept Me. Ole Miss Did’. The story, written by Dylan Lewis,

“I never ran as the gay president. I never wanted to be that... I just wanted to be known as Matt.”

addresses the author’s own experience of being kicked out of home. But he later found his home at the University of Mississippi.

“For the first time ever, I found friends who loved me for who I am,” Lewis wrote. “I gained confidence and took on leadership roles. I joined the student government. I gave campus tours as an Ole Miss ambassador and welcomed new students as an Ole Miss orientation leader. I was never made to feel I didn’t belong.”

The article suggested that for LGBT students whose families do not support them, college becomes burdensome. A Point Foundation study found that one-third of LGBT students delay attending a four-year college for reasons of affordability or debt. Jarvis hopes that Marshall can be to its LGBTQ+ students what Ole Miss was to Dylan Lewis.

“Marshall can be that for people. Marshall is that for students.”

When Monday comes around, Jarvis will have prepared all his facts and statistics to give an educated talk, but realizes the importance of his own experience.

“I’ve lived my experience. That’s what I know best.”

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